

# St. Mary of the Purification Parish

230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0

Tel: 519-323-1054, Fax: 519-323-0117, [www.stmarymountforest.ca](http://www.stmarymountforest.ca)

St. Peter's Mission, 943 Caroline Street, Ayton, ON N0G1C0

St. Thomas the Apostle Mission, #5800, HW 89, Harriston, ON N0G1Z0

Pastor: Rev. Michael Anderson, P.P.

Email: [manderson@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:manderson@hamiltondiocese.com)

Bookkeeper: Annette Connolly

Email: [stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca](mailto:stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca)

Secretary: Katarina Smolkova

Email: [stmarymtforest@wightman.ca](mailto:stmarymtforest@wightman.ca)



**New Parishioners - WELCOME! - Please introduce yourself to the priest.**

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

## LORD'S DAY LITURGIES:

### SATURDAY:

St. Mary: 4:00 pm Mass

St. Thomas: 5:30 pm Mass

### SUNDAY:

St. Mary: 9:00 am Mass

St. Peter: 11:00 am Mass

## WEEKDAY LITURGIES:

Please refer to schedule inside.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday: 5:30 pm-6:30 pm or by appointment.

**MARRIAGE:** Please notify the Pastor at least 6 months in advance.

\*Deadline for all announcement for the bulletin is on Wednesday.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please contact the parish office.

### PASTORAL CARE NEEDS:

Please contact the Parish Office - for a priest to administer the Sacrament of the sick ( best to call at the onset of illness )

- Holy Communion to the sick.  
- Home, hospital and nursing home visits.

**FUNERAL:** When death occurs in the family, please contact the parish office.

## PRIESTHOOD & RELIGIOUS

**LIFE:** For information or assistance, see

[www.HamiltonVocations.com](http://www.HamiltonVocations.com)

## DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER:

For information about home activities & events of interest in Diocese of Hamilton, subscribe to the online diocesan newsletter at:

[www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)

## SCHOOL:

St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, 390 Parkside Drive, Mount Forest ON N0G 2L3  
Telephone: 519-323-2586  
Fax: 519-323-9446

## PARISH BEQUESTS:

Keep your love for parish alive in your will & expression of sympathy.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Jan 15, 2023**

**Tues. Jan 17**– 7:00 p.m. Anna Marie Raftis Req'd by Estate

**Wed. Jan 18**– 9:00 a.m Kathleen, Harold & Kenneth Lehman Req'd by Estate of Kay Lehman

**Thur. Jan 19**– 9:00 a.m. Joe Oliveira Req'd by TheFamily

**Fri. Jan 20** – 9:00 a.m. Cris Coaxe Req'd by Rita Kennedy

**Sat Jan 21** - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

**Sun. Jan 22** - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

### **LECTORS**

Sat. Jan 21- 4:00 p.m. Marian Flanigan

Sun. Jan 22 - 9:00 a.m. Emma Westendorp

**CONFESSION: Tue. 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. and by appointment, call Fr. Mike at 519-323-1054 ext. 7**

### **ST. THOMAS, Harriston**

**Sat. Jan 21** - 5:30 p.m. Luisa Verissimo Req'd by Manny Verissimo & family

### **ST. PETER'S, Ayton**

**Sun. Jan 22** - 11:00 a.m. for intention of Miralda & Matthew & children Req'd by Florence Ricard

### **Sunday's Readings**

**First Reading:** *Isaiah 49:3,5-6*

God's servant, Israel, will be made a light to the nations.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 40:2,4,7-10*

God desires obedience.

**Second Reading:** *1 Corinthians 1:1-3*

Paul greets the Church in Corinth.

**Gospel Reading:** *John 1:29-34*

John testifies that Jesus is the Lamb of God, God's own Son.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the

Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

### **Family Connection**

The ministry of John the Baptist prepared for and pointed to the ministry of Jesus. In a similar way, our lives are to offer testimony to who we know Jesus to be for us and for the world. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. How does the witness of our lives give testimony to the reconciling presence of Christ?

As a family, identify as many titles for Jesus as possible, such as Lamb of God, Son of God, Prince of Peace, and so on. Talk together about what these different titles mean and what they tell you about Jesus. Then read together today's Gospel, John 1:29-34.

Consider how John the Baptist gives testimony to who Jesus is. Talk about what people might come to know about Jesus by observing your family life. Pray together that your family life will show others

that Jesus is the Son of God, the lamb who takes away the sins of the world. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/>

**BIBLE SUNDAY 2023:** The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time marks the celebration of Bible Sunday in the Diocese of Hamilton. At the conclusion of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis encouraged every Christian community to choose one Sunday a year to renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and widely diffused. Our celebration of Bible Sunday is a call to listen to how #The Bible Speaks in our hearts and within our communities of faith.

The Pastoral Offices of the Diocese of Hamilton have prepared a wide variety of resources for youth and adults in celebration of Bible Sunday 2023. Visit our website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/thebiblespeaks/> for more information.

**JOIN THE REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL** for a special discussion and film screening to raise awareness and understanding of Indigenous Reconciliation, **January 26, 2023 from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**. The film *Doctrine of Discovery, Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts* is a challenging, truthful documentary, meant to educate people about the historic policy, which established a justification for colonization and seizure of land. The legacy of the Doctrine and the impact on the current state of Indigenous affairs is discussed. Understanding the Doctrine of Discovery and its manifestations are important as we strive for reconciliation. Special discussion following the screening with Rev. Val Kerr, Indigenous Elder, and former Archdeacon for Truth, Reconciliation, and Indigenous Ministry for the Anglican Diocese of Niagara, Sarah Guinta, Coordinator Office of Justice and Peace, Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, and Christina Mines, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, Diocese of Hamilton. The screening and discussion will be hosted online. R.S.V.P. and view our full schedule of events at: <https://reeljusticefilmfestival.wordpress.com/> A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustice.

**PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH Parenting Tip 146** - As the New Year begins we often set "resolutions" to changes habits, behaviours or actions. This year set a

resolution that will benefit the whole family: decide to purposely spend more time with your children, sending a message that family time matters. Build a snow fort together, make snow angels or go for a midnight walk in the snow. Cook, clean and play together. Look back on family albums and share memories and stories. Pray before/after meals, attend Mass and say the Rosary, all as a family. The possibilities are endless, as are the benefits. (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

**MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH Marriage Tip 126** - Time is often a major problem in our day, since there never seems to be enough of it! As a result, couples spend less time together, seeing it as a solution to the short on time phenomena. But love grows and there is a sense of cohesiveness when the relationship is seen as a priority. Making time together an essential part of your planning will build a closeness between the two of you, give you time to reflect on the good and challenging events in your life and help you to know each other in a deep and caring way. So find time somewhere else, instead of taking it from your couple relationship! (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

**WORLD YOUTH DAY FUNDRAISING DINNER: A Taste of Portugal** - The Diocesan WYD Planning Team warmly invites you to join us for A Taste of Portugal, a fundraising dinner in support of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to WYD Lisbon this coming summer. Hosted at St. Mary's Parish Hall on **Saturday, February 04, 2023** at 6:30pm, this dinner promises to be a feast for the senses, with Portuguese food, dancing and music to enjoy! Tickets are on sale for \$75.00 each and can be purchased by emailing us at: [wyd@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:wyd@hamiltondiocese.com). Looking forward to having you join us!

**THE CATHOLIC DATE NIGHT - Hosted by Kathleen and Jesse LeBlanc of Found Together** - Are date nights with your spouse (or future spouse!) turning into Netflix binge nights? Do you want to grow in faith and prayer together? Do you wish you had a community of Catholic couples to truly journey with? It's time to level up your marriage vocation with The Catholic Date Night! Enjoy the LIVE monthly date nights from the comfort of your own home. Subscribe at [www.wearefoundtogether.com/datenights](http://www.wearefoundtogether.com/datenights) and follow them on Instagram @TheCatholicDateNight for date night inspiration and more!

## Vocations

St. Paul tells us that we have been sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be a holy people. Could it be that you or someone in your family is being called to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister or consecrated virgin? Contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988. Email: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com) [hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/](http://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/)

## CWL

**Dues:** 2023 CWL dues must be in before the end of 2022. It is now \$40.00. Please leave in the collection basket addressed to CWL.

## January 18 – 25 Prayer for Christian Unity

### DIOCESAN CALENDAR

<b>Mon.</b> – Very Rev. W. Kuzma	<b>Tue.</b> - Rev. F. Hubilla
<b>Wed.</b> – Youth Ministers	<b>Sat.</b> - Rev. I. Koziak, S.A.C.
<b>Thurs.</b> – Rev. L. Payett	<b>Fri.</b> - Rev. J. Okoko, i.v.Dei.



### **Kindergarten registration:**

January 17 & 15, 21 & 22, 28 & 29, 2023

### **Kindergarten at Wellington Catholic...**

#### **We have faith in education.**

The Wellington Catholic District School Board will be accepting registrations for Kindergarten at our schools beginning January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

#### Kindergarten Eligibility

- must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2023, to attend Year 1 Kindergarten
- must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2023, to attend Year 2 Kindergarten

#### **Documents needed:**

- child's birth certificate
- a parent or child's Baptismal cert
- proof of tax support for families new to the system (i.e. most recent tax bill)

- proof of address (government document, mortgage, or rental agreement, Hydro bill, credit card statement)
- proper immigration documentation
- custody documents (if applicable)

Please note:

- Students currently attending a Wellington Catholic Year 1 Kindergarten program are **NOT REQUIRED** to register for Year 2 Kindergarten. Should you have any questions about registration procedures or requirements, please call your school.

**MASTERING YOUR MONEY: A Financial Wellness Presentation for the Diocese of Hamilton** - Financial worries are the top source of stress for all Canadians, ranking above work concerns, health worries and even relationship struggles. The need for financial literacy has never been more pressing. Join us for this **special zoom session on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**, presented by Mr. Fred Masters, President & Founder of Masters Money Management Inc., and the author of the critically-acclaimed new book 'Lessons on Mastering Money'. He has delivered dozens and dozens of personal financial literacy presentations and is a sought-after media commentator on financial literacy. This is a free virtual event, but you must register at [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com) under Upcoming events, or call 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, to receive the Zoom link.

**YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT - FEBRUARY 4TH - GUELPH** - Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and early 30s) of our diocese to attend a night of Adoration, Fellowship and Praise Music. Arrival and Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), Social with Food (7:30pm-8:30pm), Praise Night and Vocation Testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Saturday, February 4th at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate (28 Norfolk Street, Guelph). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com).

**THE 2023 DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS** - Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2023? If you are, you are cordially invited to join couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass **on Sunday, April 16, 2023** at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring 1 guest if you require assistance). Registration will be available in early January at [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)